

## Message Text

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ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-07 L-03  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06  
DOE-11 SOE-02 ACDA-12 OMB-01 NRC-05 OES-07 /097 W  
-----098424 210847Z /11

R 210727Z JAN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4642  
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON  
SECDEF WASHDC  
CNO WASHDC  
USNMR SHAPE BRUSSELS  
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN  
CINCLANTFLT NORFOLK VA  
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON  
COMSIXTHFLT  
USDOCOSOUTH

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 02002

MILITARY ADDRESSEES ALSO FOR POLADS

USDOCOSOUTH FOR INTAF

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MNUC, OCLR, US, FR  
SUBJECT: NUCLEAR POWERED WARSHIP (NPW) VISITS TO FRANCE

REFS: STATE 006087 DTG 101834Z JAN 78

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: I USED MEETING WITH ELYSEE SECRETARY  
GENERAL FRANCOIS-PONCET TO MAKE HIGH LEVEL APPROACH ON  
NEED TO RESOLVE NPW ISSUE. EMBOFF DELIVERED NOTE  
CONTAINING LEGAL ARGUMENTATION TO FOREIGN MINISTRY  
NUCLEAR AFFAIRS OFFICER. I WILL FOLLOW UP ON MY DIS-  
CUSSION WITH FRANCOIS-PONCET BY MAKING SIMILAR PRESENTA-  
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TION TO FOREIGN MINISTRY SECRETARY GENERAL SOUTOU.  
END SUMMARY.

2. ON JANUARY 19 I USED OCCASION OF A MEETING WITH  
ELYSEE SECRETARY GENERAL FRANCOIS-PONCET TO MAKE HIGH-  
LEVEL DEMARCHE ON NPW ISSUE AS SUGGESTED REFTEL. I  
PLAN SIMILAR APPROACH TO FOREIGN MINISTRY SECRETARY

GENERAL SOUTOU ON JANUARY 20.

3. I EMPHASIZED TO FRANCOIS-PONCET THAT WE HOPED FOR AN EARLY AND FAVORABLE FRENCH DECISION ON NPW VISITS AND THAT WE WERE MAKING A DETAILED PRESENTATION ON THIS TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. I TOLD FRANCOIS-PONCET THAT WE RECOGNIZE THAT THE GOF IS NOT IN A POSITION TO CHANGE ITS LAW. HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE THE USG ASSURANCES FORM AN ADEQUATE BASIS FOR ACCEPTANCE FOR NPW VISITS. WE WOULD HOPE TO ENABLE SOME NPW VISITS TO TAKE PLACE BEFORE THE MARCH ELECTIONS. THIS IS AN IMPORTANT ISSUE IN WHICH FRANCE ALSO HAS A MAJOR INTEREST BECAUSE OF ITS INCREASING NUCLEAR-POWERED FLEET. I ASKED FRANCOIS-PONCET TO TAKE A PERSONAL INTEREST IN THIS TO BREAK THE LOG-JAM SO THAT THE ISSUE WOULD NOT GET BOGGED DOWN IN THE FRENCH BUREAUCRACY. AFTER THE MARCH ELECTIONS IT SHOULD BE ABLE TO REFINE THE ARRANGEMENTS FURTHER.

4. ON SAME DAY EMBOFF CALLED ON FOREIGN MINISTRY NUCLEAR AFFAIRS OFFICER LOUET TO OUTLINE IN DETAIL REFTEL POINTS. EMBOFF LEFT WITH LOUET DIPLOMATIC NOTE CONTAINING SUBSTANCE OF PARAGRAPHS 3 AND 4 OF REFTEL. (COPIES POUCHED TO ADDRESSEES.) EMBOFF STRESSED USG INTEREST IN SPEEDY RESOLUTION OF THIS ISSUE. EMBOFF NOTED THAT NPW ISSUE HAS BEEN UNDER DISCUSSION FOR TWO CONFIDENTIAL

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YEARS. FRANCE ITSELF, WHICH ALREADY OPERATES NPWS,

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 02002

SHOULD HAVE AN INTEREST IN SETTLING THIS. NPW NUCLEAR REACTORS HAVE AN UNBLEMISHED SAFETY RECORD. CONGRESS AND THE PRESIDENT ARE ON RECORD ASSUMING ABSOLUTE LIABILITY. THE USE OF THE NATO SOFA WOULD OBVIATE ANY CHANGE IN THE FRENCH LAW, ALTHOUGH IN THE UNLIKELY EVENT OF CLAIMS, WE WOULD HANDLE THEM THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS.

5. WE HAVE A NUCLEAR POWERED TASK GROUP NOW IN THE MEDITERRANEAN. WE HOPE TO GAIN ACCESS TO FRENCH PORTS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. WE DO NOT WANT LEGAL TECHNICALITIES TO STAND IN THE WAY OF RESOLVING THIS ISSUE. WE CANNOT PROVIDE UNIQUE ASSURANCES TO THE GOF WITHOUT JEOPARDIZING ARRANGEMENTS WITH MANY OTHER GOVERNMENTS. CONFIDENTIAL

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6. LOUET RESPONDED THAT GOF LEGAL EXPERTS WOULD EXAMINE THE LATEST US POSITION. HE HOPED THEY WOULD BE ABLE TO DELIVER A SPEEDY RESPONSE. SPEAKING PERSONALLY, HE SAID THAT HE WILL ASK THEM TO EXAMINE THE POSSIBILITY OF MODIFYING THE DECREE WHICH WAS ISSUED TO IMPLEMENT THE FRENCH LAW. HE COULD NOT GUARANTEE THAT THIS WOULD BE SUCCESSFUL, BUT IT IS WORTH EXAMINING.

7. RE QUERY PARAGRAPH 3 REFTEL, WE PROVIDED COPIES OF P.L. 93-513 TO GOF IN 1976. LOUET CONFIRMS THAT GOF HAS THESE COPIES AVAILABLE FOR REFERENCE. HARTMAN

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** VISITS  
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**Draft Date:** 21 jan 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Source:** CORE  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** NUCLEAR POWERED WARSHIP (NPW) VISITS TO FRANCE  
**TAGS:** MNUC, OCLR, US, FR  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014